

**Statement of R. Scott Slifka
Mayor of the Town of West Hartford
before the
Committee on Planning and Development
Connecticut General Assembly
February 18, 2011
in support of
HB 5780
An Act Concerning Interlocal Agreements**

Chairman Cassano, Chairman Gentile, Ranking Member Fasano, Ranking Member Aman, and members of the Planning and Development Committee, thank you for the opportunity to address you this morning.

Representative Becker has summarized this bill for you very well. Quite simply, it resolves confusion in existing law and it makes it easier for municipalities to come together to solve mutual problems including the paramount problem we all share: saving money.

This committee is well aware of the cost-savings which municipalities can achieve by joining together. The options range from cooperative purchasing of office supplies to the creation of shared information technology departments to the sharing of contractual professional services. From the largest of cities to the smallest of towns, the possibilities are endless. As the law stands today, however, it is actually *harder* for two towns to get together to contract for a shared service than it would be for each of them to do so separately. This makes no sense at all. If anything, it should be *easier* for two political subdivisions of the state to work together.

As we face unprecedented economic problems in Connecticut, the State and its 169 municipalities are all struggling to find new ways to become more efficient without sacrificing necessary services. The modest changes which House Bill 5780 makes to existing law will cost absolutely nothing. Instead, the procedural changes will help the Town of West Hartford eliminate some portion of the court reporting fees and the \$30,000 to \$40,000 which it pays each year to publish notice of public hearings. There are no troubling public policy concerns. Instead, this bill will simply save municipalities time and money while allowing them to come together to do what they can already do alone. I strongly urge your support and I thank you for your time.

